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I N V I T A T I O N S

To the Reverend

Mr. *Whitefield*,

From the *Eastern Consociation* of the  
County of *Fairfield*. ✧

W I T H

A LETTER from the Reverend

Mr. *Samuel Cooke* of *Stratfield*  
in *Connecticut*,

To a Minister in *Boston*.

Concerning the former Success of Mr. *Whitefield's*  
Ministry there.



B O S T O N :

Printed and Sold by KNEELAND and GREEN in Queenstreet.

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# INVITATIONS

To the Reverend

Mr. Whitefield,

From the Eastern Association of the  
County of Fairfield.

WITH

A LETTER to the Reverend



Mr. Samuel

in

To a Minister in Boston.

Concerning the former Success of Mr. Whitefield's  
Ministry there.

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Printed and Sold by Kneass and Green, 21 Cornhill.

1740

At a stated Meeting of the Eastern  
 Confociation of the County of  
*Fairfield* at *Sratfield*, on Tuesday the  
 7th of October 1740.

Mr. COOKE chosen Moderator, and Mr. MINER chosen Scribe.

**VOTED**, That, considering the wonderful Success that hath attended the Rev. Mr. *Whitefield*'s Ministry in the Places where he hath preached, in awakening secure Sinners and the Promotion of Piety; the Moderator and Scribe do, in the Name of this Confociation, prepare a Letter and send it to the abovesaid Rev. Gentleman with all convenient Speed, intreating that he would make a Visit to the several Towns within our District, that if it may be the Will of God, he may be an Instrument of reviving decayed Religion in our Churches also.

A true Copy of Record,

Test. *Samuel Cooke*, Register.

To the Reverend Mr. WHITEFIELD.

*Reverend and dearly beloved Brother,*

**I**N Pursuance of the Vote of our Confociation, in which was presented every Pastor in our Circuit, and a Messenger from every Church, save one; an attested Copy of which Vote we have sent you subjoined: We do (as well in the Name of said Confociation as in our own Names) earnestly intreat you to make a ministerial Visit to us and our People in our several religious Societies. We in these



' Parts may be said in some Respects to have a Name to live, and to  
 ' maintain something of the Form of Godliness. We are indoctrinated  
 ' in the Christian Faith, conformable to the *Westminster Assembly's*  
 ' *Shorter Catechism*, to which our People generally in Words assent,  
 ' and which our Children drink in, as it were with their Mother's Milk,  
 ' &c. But alas for us! it is too notorious to be denied or palliated,  
 ' that the Life and Power of Godliness in our Parts is generally sunk  
 ' to a Degree very lamentable. As far as we know our selves, we  
 ' may say, that we sincerely bewail and mourn over dying Religion,  
 ' and do heartily wish, pray for, and willingly endeavour its Revival  
 ' in the Hearts and Lives of our selves and People, not without some  
 ' affecting Sense of our own very criminal Indolence in Times past.  
 ' God in Mercy forgive us, and inspire us and our Brethren in the  
 ' Ministry with a renewed and warmer Zeal, and more assiduous Acti-  
 ' vity in pleading the Cause of languishing Piety, and erecting and  
 ' building up the spiritual Kingdom of Christ in the Hearts and  
 ' Lives of Professors! The good Lord cure us of our *Laodicean* Luke-  
 ' warmth, that he spue us not out of his Mouth! Oh that we were  
 ' more generally acquainted with the Necessity, Nature, Symptoms,  
 ' and Effects of a divine, spiritual Regeneration, and more earnestly  
 ' engaged in the Pursuit of it; without which, all Externals in Reli-  
 ' gion and Morality will leave us short of the heavenly Kingdom:  
 ' And that there were neither Masters nor Disciples in our *Israel* that  
 ' should ignorantly deride and ridicule such Doctrines! Our Eyes  
 ' and our Hearts are lift up unto God in the Heavens, and our De-  
 ' pendance is wholly upon him as the Efficient, who hath the Hearts  
 ' of all in his Hands, and turns them as the Rivers of Water, with  
 ' whom is the Residue of the Spirit, that he would more plentifully  
 ' pour out his Spirit upon us and our People of the risen and rising  
 ' Generation, even a Spirit of Grace and Supplication, a Spirit of Con-  
 ' viction and Awakening, a Spirit of Conversion and Regeneration,  
 ' a Spirit of progressive Sanctification and Consolation.

' But for as much as God is wont to raise up, spirit, and improve  
 ' some special Instruments for these great and good Designs towards  
 ' a People for whom he hath Designs of signal Grace and Favour,  
 ' and hath distinguishingly animated and succeeded you, as an happy  
 ' Instrument of the Spirit for these Purposes; we can't but most affec-  
 ' tionately wish that we may share in your personal Ministrations;  
 ' and our daily Prayer is, that you may come to us in the Fulness of  
 ' the

‘ the Blessing of the Gospel of Christ, and that the Blessing of many  
 ‘ among us who are ready to perish may come upon you ; and like-  
 ‘ wise for you, that you may glorify God in the most becoming in-  
 ‘ ward Frames and outward Conduct, under all the good and evil  
 ‘ Report occurring, and not be on the one Hand exalted above Mea-  
 ‘ sure, nor on the other impatiently succumb under Discouragements  
 ‘ arising from Male-treatment.

‘ Sir, There are two Things more which we heartily wish, and  
 ‘ shall take Leave to mention as Prudentials, *viz.*

‘ 1. That while you are zealously pleading what we, as well as  
 ‘ you, look upon as the Cause of Christ and his Religion, you will  
 ‘ not be free in personal Reflections to wound the Characters of others  
 ‘ who have been generally well accepted among Christians for Piety ;  
 ‘ lest some be hereby occasionally so prejudiced as not to receive the  
 ‘ Love of the Truth that they might be saved. We can’t but think  
 ‘ that Unsoundness in Principles, and Hypocrisy in Profession, may  
 ‘ be far more advantageously impleaded, and the contrary Truths  
 ‘ imprinted, without fixing personal Brands, tho’ they were (absolutely  
 ‘ considered) ever so just. How it is elsewhere we do not pretend to  
 ‘ know, but are morally assured that such a Caution is necessary to be  
 ‘ observed here in order to the more general Success of the Gospel-  
 ‘ Ministry either stated or occasional.

‘ 2. That you expect not among us Collections for your *Orphan-  
 ‘ House in Georgia* : For tho’ we were our selves ever so far from en-  
 ‘ tertaining a Thought so injurious to your Character, as to suspect  
 ‘ that under that Name, you were pursuing a private, worldly Interest  
 ‘ of your own ; yet it will be exceeding hard, if not impossible for  
 ‘ us, who are very little acquainted with that Affair, to dispossess  
 ‘ others of hurtful Prejudices on that Score. And we sincerely be-  
 ‘ lieve that the glorious Design of reviving Religion among us by  
 ‘ your occasional Ministry, will have probably a much better and  
 ‘ more extensive Effect without such a Collection. *Sed Deus & Dies  
 ‘ docebunt.*

‘ To what has been offered, we shall only subjoin our Request, that  
 ‘ you would write us by the first Opportunity, and let us know when  
 ‘ we may expect you in our District, that we may notify our distant  
 ‘ Brethren in the Ministry as well as others.

‘ Thus, with our hearty Thanksgivings to God for the good Suc-  
 ‘ cess which hath hitherto attended your painful Labours, and praying  
 ‘ that



“ that God would yet abundantly add thereunto, and our Desires of a  
 “ special Interest in your Prayers, for us, our Families and Flocks,  
 “ we subscribe, Sir,

Your Brethren and Fellow-Labourers in the Gospel,

*Samuel Cooke,*  
*Richardson Miner.*

*Connecticut, ff.*

*Stratfield, Octob. 14. 1740.* A true Copy of a Letter sent to  
 the Rev. Mr. *George Whitefield* &c.

Test. *S. Cooke*, Register of the Consociation.

Mr *Cooke's* Letter is as follows, viz.

*Reverend and dear Brother,*

“ **W**HAT affects me (I think) with the most pinching Sorrow,  
 “ is the awful Declension of Religion among us. I have  
 “ no sufficient Grounds to think there has been more than one In-  
 “ stance of saving Conversion in my Congregation within the Space  
 “ of a Year last past ; and I know of none lately brought under deep  
 “ Conviction. As for those hopefully converted in the late BLESSED  
 “ Day never to be forgotten, the greater Part by far do appear to this  
 “ Day to be, what I hoped they were, *Israelites indeed* : I have not yet  
 “ found Reason to suspect my self mistaken in any one of them, of  
 “ whom I had, in the Time of it, the clearest Satisfaction attainable  
 “ in the Case of another.--- I have not Expectation, and I think no  
 “ Desire of a longer Stay here in this Wilderness ; but earnestly de-  
 “ sire, if it were the Will of God, that before my Departure, I might  
 “ afresh see the Salvation of God, in the reviving and flourishing of  
 “ pure and undefiled Religion. --- You will please to give my Service  
 “ to my dear Brethren of the Ministry in *Boston*, especially those with  
 “ whom I was favoured with special Acquaintance, when there. And  
 “ may I have an Interest in your Prayers and theirs.

“ I am heartily glad to hear from Time to Time the Encourage-  
 “ ment you give to the Labours of that eminent Man of God, the  
 “ dear Mr. *Whitefield* ; notwithstanding the united Attempts of Mul-  
 “ titudes in the Country to stop his Mouth. His Motion before,  
 “ when he reached this western County of *New-England*, was so  
 “ swift that I had no Opportunity of hearing him more than twice.

“ God

“ God was pleased to honour him as an Instrument of first rowling  
 “ many out of that profound Stupidity and wretched Regardlesness of  
 “ their precious Souls, which deeply seized them, of putting the  
 “ first general Stop to that dreadful carnal Jollity and Meriment aw-  
 “ fully abounding among our young People of both Sexes, of con-  
 “ vincing many of their sinful and miserable Condition, of happily  
 “ dis-rekking others who had walked along easily in the Light of their  
 “ own Fire, and the Sparks they had kindled ; and of exciting many  
 “ to that serious Inquiry ; *What shall we do to be saved ?* The far-  
 “ ther Consequences of his itinerant Preaching here were such as gave  
 “ me and others in the Ministry among us, occasion of rejoicing in  
 “ the Goodness of God to us and our People ; for that we of the  
 “ Ministry were hereby stirred up, I hope, to greater Engagedness to  
 “ preach the Word in Season and out of Season &c. and our People  
 “ more numerous, attentive and solemn in their Attendance, not only  
 “ on the Lord’s Days, but at other Times, not the less but the more  
 “ for the frequency of Lectures. Our own Ministrations as well as  
 “ the occasional Labours of others appeared to make greater and  
 “ more hopeful Impressions on the Souls of our People from that  
 “ Period than before : Convictions then beginning were cultivated,  
 “ and I doubt not to say, that in many Instances they issued in a  
 “ sound Conversion.--- His coming among us at that Time was a-  
 “ greable to the united Desires of the Body of the Churches and Mi-  
 “ nisters of the Eastern District in *Fairfield* County, consociationally  
 “ convened a little before his Arrival hither ; as you may see by the  
 “ enclosed Copy of a Letter sent him, which I suppose never reached  
 “ him : notwithstanding all the Pains that have been more lately ta-  
 “ ken by great Numbers in the Land, to hinder if possible, his Re-  
 “ ception and Usefulness ; the most material of which I believe I have  
 “ perused, as published in particular Pamphlets and Weekly News-  
 “ Papers ; I am still as desirous as ever, that he would make us a Visit  
 “ again in this County, and take Time to preach in all our Pulpits.  
 “ There are in the County twenty five Congregations (besides Epis-  
 “ copalian) divided into two ecclesiastical Classes ; and I have Reason  
 “ to think there are few or none of their Pulpits, but will be gladly  
 “ opened to the Reverend Mr. *Whitefield*. As for those of the Eastern  
 “ Classis in the County, I can be more peremptory, because at a late  
 “ Meeting of that Association, I was expressly desired earnestly to in-  
 vite



" vite Mr. *Whitefield* to make us a Visit, and preach in the Places of  
 " our respective Charges, in the Name and on Behalf of

<i>Samuel Cooke</i>	of the Church in Stratfield.
<i>John Grabam</i>	Southbury.
<i>Jedidiah Mills</i>	Ripton.
<i>Elisha Kent</i>	Philippi.
<i>Ebenezer White</i>	Danbury.
<i>Benajah Case</i>	New-Fairfield South.
<i>Joseph Bellamy</i>	Bethlehem.
<i>Reuben Judd</i>	Judea.
<i>Thomas Canfield</i>	Roxbury.
<i>Thomas Lewis</i>	NewFairfieldNorth.

" Sir ! You will be pleased to acquaint Mr. *Whitefield* with the  
 " Premisses as soon as you have Opportunity, and remind him of the  
 " Encouragement he gave me the last Minute that I saw him, when  
 " he was here before ; on which not only my own Expectations, but  
 " of many others, to whom I communicated it, have been raised.  
 " I am free, you should make what Improvement may be tho't pro-  
 " per of all the Premisses relating to Mr. *Whitefield* ; nothing dread-  
 " ing any Resentments against me ; and entertaining a prevailing  
 " Hope, that God will bless his Labours among us to the saving Good  
 " of many perishing Souls, the quickning his own dear Children, and  
 " the fresh inlivening his faithful Ministers. This with my hearty  
 " Prayers for you, and all my dear Brethren in the Ministry, who in  
 " the midst of all Difficulties, dare to appear openly in Defence of the  
 " old Gospel Way of Salvation, and the special Manifestation of di-  
 " vine Power and Goodness in the late Day of great Grace ; and my  
 " Desire of an Interest in your Prayers, is all the needful at present  
 " from dear Brother,

Your Brother and Companion in Tribulation,  
 and in the Kingdom and Patience of Jesus  
 CHRIST, to whom be Glory for ever. Amen.

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*Samuel Cooke.*

Stratfield, May 15. 1745.



